

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 920

H.P. 675

House of Representatives, February 21, 2019

An Act To Establish the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: COREY of Windham, DUNPHY of Old Town, HICKMAN of Winthrop,
MAXMIN of Nobleboro, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, O'NEIL of Saco, ROBERTS-LOVELL
of South Berwick, Senator: DILL of Penobscot.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §219-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§219-A. Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing**

4 **1. Fund established.** The Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing,
5 referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department to provide
6 incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase
7 of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of
8 programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition
9 assistance programs. The fund consists of money received as appropriations, allocations
10 and contributions from private and public sources. The fund, to be accounted within the
11 department, must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts.
12 Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of
13 the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do
14 not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. For purposes of this section,
15 "local" means within the State.

16 **2. Fund recipients.** An organization based in the State that supports local food
17 producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and
18 nutrition assistance may receive proceeds from the fund upon application with the
19 department. The department shall prioritize an applicant that has a demonstrated history
20 of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase
21 locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrates the ability to leverage the
22 proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources.
23 The department shall periodically post a request for applications for eligible organizations
24 to apply for fund proceeds.

25 **3. Report; audit.** The department shall require a periodic report from a recipient
26 under subsection 2 detailing the use of fund proceeds and the federal food and nutrition
27 assistance programs involved and to ensure that the funds are expended appropriately
28 pursuant to this section. The department may audit a recipient to carry out the purposes
29 of this subsection.

30 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
31 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of the fund, including application
32 criteria and procedures for recipients, disbursement of funds to recipients and for
33 outreach and administration purposes and reporting and audit procedures for recipients.

34 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
35 allocations are made.

36 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

37 **Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing**

38 Initiative: Provides funding to capitalize the Fund To Support Local Fruits and
39 Vegetables Purchasing for use in conjunction with federal food and nutrition assistance
40 programs to incentivize the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

1
2
3
4
5

GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
All Other	\$250,000	\$250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$250,000</u>	<u>\$250,000</u>

6

SUMMARY

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

This bill establishes the Fund To Support Local Fruits and Vegetables Purchasing within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition assistance programs. Fund recipients must be state-based organizations that support local food producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance, with priority to organizations that have a demonstrated history of incentivizing the use of federal food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrate the ability to leverage the proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources. The bill provides reporting and audit requirements for recipients to ensure proper use of the funds and appropriates funds to capitalize the fund.